

**PROGRAM CHARTER**  
**FOR**  
**AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT**  
Program Manager: Elizabeth White  
Fleet Services Sub-goal Team Lead: Elizabeth White

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Aircraft Replacement Program, a mission support program in the Fleet Services Sub-Goal, develops the requirements, business case acquisition strategies, funding profiles, contractual instruments and preliminary arrangements necessary to equip, modernize, and operate aircraft required to meet NOAA's data collection in varied flight environments. The "Report of NOAA's Airborne Platform Requirements for the Ten-Year Period 2003-2012," updated by the interim "NOAA Aircraft Modernization Plan FY2005-FY2014," in addition to forecasting the requirements for airborne data collection, defines the planned replacement and modernization of NOAA aircraft to support the needs of all NOAA's Mission Goals.

Acquisition planning, design and execution of aircraft and aircraft system procurement and modernization contracts is conducted by Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) personnel located in Silver Spring MD and Tampa FL.

Details of the capabilities and organization of OMAO and the Aviation Operation Center may be found at [www.oma.noaa.gov](http://www.oma.noaa.gov) and [www.aoc.noaa.gov](http://www.aoc.noaa.gov).

**2. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS****A. Requirement Drivers:**

- 33USC Chapter 17 "National Ocean Survey" requires NOAA to acquire shoreline topographic data, promulgate standards, products and services for charts and related information for the safe navigation of marine and air commerce as well as basic data for engineering, scientific and commercial purposes.
- 16USC Chapters 31 "Marine Mammal Protection", 35 "Endangered Species", and 38 "Fishery Conservation and Management" make NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service responsible for protecting, restoring, and management species listed under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- 15USC Chapter 9 "National Weather Service" requires NOAA's National Weather Service to forecast the weather, issue storm warnings, report temperature and rain-fall conditions, and take meteorological observations necessary to establish and record the climatic conditions of the United States.
- 42USC Chapter 85 "Air Pollution Prevention and Control" mandates that NASA and NOAA monitor and report to Congress on the current average tropospheric concentration of chlorine and bromine and on the level of stratospheric ozone depletion.

- National Hurricane Operations Plan and the National Winter Storms Operations Plan requires NOAA provide weather reconnaissance flights, including synoptic surveillance in order to ensure the necessary preparedness actions are taken to minimize loss of life and destruction of property.
- NOAA's Strategic Plan identifies NOAA aircraft as an element of its Mission Support Goal and one of the components of "...the backbone of the global Earth observing system...."

**B. Mission Requirements:**

- Provide NOAA with the platforms required to safely meet future airborne data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices.

### 3. LINKS TO THE NOAA STRATEGIC PLAN

- A. **Goal Outcome:** The Aircraft Replacement Program supports the Mission Support outcome, "Ship, aircraft, and satellite programs that ensure continuous observation of critical environmental conditions."
- B. **Goal Performance Objective:** The Aircraft Replacement Program supports the Mission Support performance objective, "Improve efficiency and performance of financial, administrative, workforce management, acquisition, and other support transactions and services."
- C. **Goal Strategy:** The Aircraft Replacement Program employs the Mission Support strategy "Use effective and efficient approaches to meet NOAA requirements for ship and aircraft support."

**4. PROGRAM OUTCOME:** Provide aircraft and aircraft systems which safely meet NOAA's airborne data collection requirements.

**5. PROGRAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** This program is established and managed with the procedures established in the NOAA Business Operations Manual (BOM). Responsibilities of the Program Manager are described in the BOM. Responsibilities of other major participants are summarized below.

**A. Participating Line Office, Staff Office, and Council Responsibilities:**

1. OMAO is responsible for the operation and maintenance of NOAA's fleet of aircraft to safely and efficiently meet the airborne data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices.
  2. All of NOAA's line offices, through their associated Mission Goal Programs, are responsible for the identification of airborne data collection requirements, the collaboration in the development of Congressional legislation required to obtain new / modernized aircraft, and technical assistance in the development of aircraft and aircraft system performance requirements.
  3. NOAA's Fleet Council advises and comments on fleet renewal plans.
  4. NOAA's Observing Systems Council identifies gaps in NOAA observation systems
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which require airborne data collection assets.

5. NOAA's Ocean Council is responsible for coordinating ocean activities across NOAA; proposing priorities and investment strategies for ocean-related initiatives; and coordinating NOAA's participation in the interagency National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP). The NOC is also authorized to develop a strategy and serve as the agency focal point for responding to and implementing the recommendations of the President's Ocean Action Plan and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.
6. NOAA's General Counsel reviews contractual documentation, provides guidance in the development and execution of competitive source selection criteria and assists in the development of Memoranda of Understanding as necessary to meet its operational requirements with agency partners. Assistance is provided to ensure compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations related to the disposal of NOAA's aircraft.
7. NOAA's Facilities Program assists in aircraft storage development and maintenance.
8. NOAA's Information Technology Services Program acquires and implements information technology infrastructure that assures NOAA missions are able to adequately and securely deliver their data products.

**B. External Agency/Organization Responsibilities:**

1. Naval Aviation Depot, Jacksonville FL, provides aviation maintenance services to maintain and modernize NOAA's aircraft.
2. The Federal Aviation Administration provides engineering and technical support.

**6. END USERS OR BENEFICIARIES OF PROGRAM**

The Aircraft Replacement Program provides NOAA with new and modernized aircraft and aircraft systems to meet the airborne data collection requirements of NOAA's Mission Goals and Line Offices. NOAA's aircraft provide measurements and observations that:

- Support healthy and productive coastal marine ecosystems;
- Support a predictive understanding of the global climate system;
- Reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy due to weather related events;
- Support safe, secure, efficient, and seamless movement of goods in the U.S. marine transportation system.
- Support collaboration with the FAA to collect, compile and analyze aeronautical survey data.

NOAA Mission Goal Programs which have airborne data collection requirements include:

- Climate Forcing
- Climate Observations and Analysis
- Climate Predictions and Projections
- Emergency Response

- Geodesy
- Marine Transportation Systems
- Coastal and Marine Resources
- Ecosystem Observations
- Ecosystem Research
- Habitat
- Air Quality
- Coasts, Estuaries and Oceans
- Hydrology – Rivers, Lakes and Floods
- Local Forecasts and Warnings
- Weather Water Science, Technology and Infusion

Ultimately, the data collected by these programs supports the Nation's economy and public well-being.